

**Sustainable Natural Resource Funding
Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**Des Moines Botanical Center – Des Moines, IA
1pm – 5pm July 30, 1007**

Committee members present:

Mark	Ackelson	Duane Sand-proxy	Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Jane	Clark	Present	Sierra Club
Dan	Cohen	Present	IACCB
Dick	Dearden	Absent	IA Senate-Democrat
Barbara	Finch	Present	Iowa Farm Bureau
Jon	Kruse	Ryan Heiniger-proxy	Duck Unlimited
Rich	Leopold	Present	IA DNR
Lola	Lopes	Present	The Nature Conservancy
Mary	Lundby	Carolann Jensen-proxy	Legislative Staff: IA Senate-Republican
Pauline	Novotny	Present	Izaak Walton League of Iowa
Henry	Rayhons	Absent	Iowa House of Representatives- Republican
Marian	Riggs-Gelb	David Hurd-proxy	Iowa Environmental Council
Deb	Ryun	Present	Conservation Districts of Iowa
Marvin	Shirley	Present	Farmers Union
Ken	Tow	Duane Sand-proxy	Secretary of Agriculture
Dave	Van Waus	Present	Pheasants Forever
John	Whitaker	Absent	IA House of Representatives-Democrat
Tbd		replacement pending	Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Committee Support Staff Present

Diane	Ford-Shivvers	IA DNR Legislative Liaison / SF Support
Doug	Harr	IA DNR Program Coordinator/SF Facilitator
Kim	Rasler	IA DNR / SF Support
Peter	Fritzell	IA DNR / SF Support

Public present:

Deb	Kozel	Legislative Services Agency
Ed	Cox	Drake Intern for INHF
Angie	Grover	The Nature Conservancy

Welcome, Opening Remarks, Introductions – Rich Leopold

Rich welcomed the committee to another session of SF and expressed this effort has continued momentum. He has received positive feedback regarding the concept of sustainable funding and is looking forward to this committee preparing and presenting SF information to the Legislative Council's appointed Interim Committee for their review and consideration.

Committee members, proxies, and public introduced themselves and their affiliation.

Review of Sustainable Funding Committee (SFC) Session-1 (08/2006-03/2007) – Doug Harr

Doug summarized the committee's Session-1

- The initial charge of the SF committee under House File 2787
- The committee's commitment to:
 - work that needed to be done
 - keeping the committee's work open and/or accessible to the public and soliciting the public's input
 - preparing/presenting SF information to legislators during the session
 - preparing the SF reports mandated by HF2787

Doug reviewed the basic ground rules the Session-1 committee members determined to facilitate productive and successful meetings.

Understanding the roles of the Legislative Council and the appointed Interim Committee – Diane Ford-Shivvers

Diane provided information regarding Senate Resolution 50 that the legislation adopted on 04/27/07. The last section of the resolution states:

“2 1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the legislative
2 2 council is requested to establish an interim study
2 3 committee to continue to study how to best provide for
2 4 a sustainable source or sources of funding for natural
2 5 resources needs in this state, to provide necessary
2 6 support in order to conduct the study, and to
2 7 cooperate with interested persons including those
2 8 persons who participated in the sustainable natural
2 9 resource funding advisory committee.”

Also presented was information to explain the role of the Legislative Council (LC)

[<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=43>]

and the Interim Committee (IC)

[<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=212>].

The charge of the IC, as noted on their webpage is to “Study how best to provide for sustainable funding for natural resource needs. Cooperate with the members of the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee established in 2006 Iowa Acts, chapter 1185, section 43, and other interested persons in performing the study.”

Definitions of the LC and IC are as follows

(http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/Committees/committee_descriptions.html):

Legislative Council: The Legislative Council serves as the executive committee of the Iowa General Assembly. During the interim between sessions, decisions affecting the General Assembly, its facilities, personnel, and operations are made by the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council oversees the operation of the two central nonpartisan

legislative agencies. It establishes an interim study agenda and appoints study committees.

Interim Study Committees: Interim study committees may be established to review matters of concern to the General Assembly by authorization of the Legislative Council, passage of a concurrent resolution, or by a provision included in an enacted bill. The Legislative Council oversees the work of the interim study committees. Unless specifically expressed in legislation, the Legislative Council determines the charge of the study committee, number of members, membership, and deadlines for completion of the study.

The SFC will continue their role as an advisory committee presenting information to the IC for consideration and well as assist in meeting informational requests the IC may need from the SFC. Diane discussed the Guidelines for Interim Study Committees. The guideline for completion of the IC meetings is 11/26/07. [<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/lsadocs/IntComDoc/2007/IDSLL001.PDF>].

The IC is scheduled to hold their first meeting on 08/13/07 between 10a-3pm. The IC has asked for 1) SFC background information and 2a) what budget needs are regarding studies and 2b) operation.

Regarding 1) SF background information:

All SFC members are welcome to attend the 08/13/07 IC meeting. The SFC suggested Rich Leopold and Mark Ackelson present the history and proposals to the IC. Specific individuals noted they would attend were Barb Finch, Lola Lopes, and Dave VanWaus.

Regarding 2a) budget needs regarding studies:

Diane presented a draft of study ideas for the SFC to review for the IC to consider at their meeting for possible funding (table below).

	STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS – DRAFT
1	Economic impact of fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing in Iowa.
2	Economic impact of outdoor recreation amenities.
3	Literature review, analysis, and compilation of existing regional and state data concerning economic impact, conservation benefit and measures, and social benefit of natural resources in Iowa; identify gaps in information.
4	Gather data for identified gaps in information, including further studies of possible sources of sustainable funding for natural resource.

The committee discussed the focus and types of studies that will provide information needed, especially regarding the economic impact. Current studies and possible options for new studies were presented, ie: CARD, ISU resource/Dave Swenson. Rich to follow up with Dave Swenson/ISU regarding the possible resources he can provide to the SFC. A study proposal will be drafted for the SFC to review.

Regarding 2b) budget needs regarding operations:
Brief discussion, at this time, set aside any budget request for SFC member and meeting reimbursement.

Additional suggestions to propose to the IC:

- A panel of colleagues be available to the IC as a resource to explore the benefits and challenges other states have had regarding sustainable funding.
 - Angie Grover, TNC, suggested comparable states for the IC to consider.
 - A proposal will be drafted for the IC's consideration.

General Discussion

The committee discussed and determined to keep the SF website as a tool for communication.

The committee discussed elements of successful preparation and promotion of the sustainable funding initiative: accountability, good partnerships, natural resource education, and grassroots effort.

The committee discussed the need to examine further and focus in on viable funding mechanism(s) that could meet the financial need.

A suggestion was made to write a letter of thanks to the Legislative Council for their appointment of the SF Interim Committee. Kim will draft the letter and Barb will review.

Next Meeting

08/22/07 Kim to coordinate location and confirm time.